on the 6th May, 1997 regarding non-payment of statutory post-retirement dues to the employees of CPSUs;

(b) whether the memorandum referred to a decision taken in meeting held on the 5th December, 1996 convened by the Labour Minister, where Minister of Finance was also present, to submit a note for consideration of the Cabinet in order to resolve the issue; and

(c) whether the above note has been considered by the Cabinet, if not, the reasons therefor and the date by which the Cabinet is likely to take a decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) The Note on non-payment of statutory dues to the employees of CPSUs was considered by the Cabinet on 19th July 1997. The Cabinet decided to set up a sub-committee comprising Minister of Agriculture as (Chairman) of the Committee, Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Labour as members to further consider the issue.

Demands of Workers of Rourkela Steel Plant

1007. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of th problems of workers engaged in Rourkela Steel Plant;

(b) whether they have demanded an increase in their monthly wages;

(c) if so, what are the various problems of the workers of the Plant;

(d) the demands made by them; and

(e) the steps taken to consider their demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam.

(c) to (e) The demands of workers of Rurkela Steel Plant which have been raised by Unions inter-alia include:—

(i) Standardisation of Wages/Service conditions in Steel Industry

(ii) Reduction in hours of work without loss in present emoluments

(iii) Revision of minimum wages

(iv) Revision of wage structure

(v) Revision of Dearness Allowance

(vi) Revision of Incentive Bonus Scheme

(vii) Revision of Retiring Gratuity

The Ministry of Steel has informed that the issues raised by the Unions fall within the ambit of negotiations at the apex level bipartite forum called the National Joint Committee for the Steel Industry. The last agreement signed by the Committee w.e.f. 1.1.92 expired in the end of 1996. Negotiations have already commenced to reach an understanding on the wage revision.

Industry Workers under ESI Scheme in Karnataka

1008. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrial workers covered under ESI Scheme at present in Karnataka and the precentage of increase in coverage taking place over the last five years;

(b) the number of ESI hospitals and dispensaries in that State, district-wise, as on date and those proposed to be set-up during the next one year;

(c) whether Government have received a number of suggestions for changes in the Scheme; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government propose to cover workers engaged in the unorganised sectors under the Scheme; if so, whether any census of workers in unorganised sector is being undertaken; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) As on 31.3. 96 there were 5,01,850 employees covered under the ESI Scheme in Karnataka. The ESI coverage in Karnataka increased by 23.91% over the last 5 years.

(b) Ther are two ESI hospitals in bangalore and one each in Chitradurga, North Kannada, Dharwar, Mysore, South Kannada. One ESI Hospital at Shabad, Gulbarga, has been constructed and handed over to the State Government for commissioning. Another ESI hospital at belgaum is nearing completion. A Statement showing number of ESI dispensaries is annexed.

(c) There are suggestions for making improvement in the Standard of medical care under the ESI Scheme.

(d) There is no proposal at present to extend the ESI Scheme in the unorganised sector.

Statement

Number of ESI dispensaries functioning in Karnataka.

District wise

Sl. No.	Name of the district	No. of dispensaries
1	Bangalore	60
2.	Chitradurga	7
3.	Kolar	4
4.	Shimoga	2
5.	Tumkur	3
6.	Belgaum	9
7.	Bijapur	3
8.	North Kannada	2
9.	Dharwar	12
10.	Gulbarga	9
11.	Bellary	5
12.	Raichur	3
13.	Mysore	11
14.	Mandya	3
15.	Hassan	1
16.	South Kannada	14
	Total:	148

ठेकेदारों द्वारा नियुक्त किए गए कर्मकारों की संख्या में वृद्धि

1009. **श्री अजीत जोगी:**
श्री एस० एस० सुरजेवाला:

क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या देश में ठेकेदारों द्वारा नियुक्त किए जा रहे कर्मकारों की संख्या में वृद्धि हो रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ठेकेदारों द्वारा कर्मकारों के नियोजन पर प्रतिबंध लगाने के लिए कदम उठाने का विचार रखती है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

श्रम मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री एम० पी० वीरेन्द्र कुमार): (क) से (ग) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Amendment to Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986

1016. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governement's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Ministry undecided on Child Labour Bill', appearing in the Times of India, dated the 4th July, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the issue was discussed at the Labour Ministers' Conference held recently;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of the action plan formulated in this regard; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken to amend the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Times of India dated 4th July, 1997 has reported that the Ministry of Labour has not been able to decide whether it should make necessary amendments in the existing legislation prohibiting employment of children in various